(a) whether Government have a proposal to Computerise the land records;

(b) if so, the States where steps have been taken in that direction;

(c) whether Government propose to provide assistance to the states to computerise the land records; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken for Computerisation of Land Records in 25 States / U.T.s viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kamataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Delhi and Pondicherry.

(c) and (d) Financial assistance is already being provided to States / U.Ts for Computerisa tion of Land Records. So far, 60 projects have been sanctioned and funds amounting to Rs. 13,78 crores as 100% Central Grant have been sanctioned for these projects.

Credit to Farmers

4248. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure timely and adequate farm credit to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether provisions have been made from Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme; and

(d) if so.the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM); (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the Government to ensure timely and adequate farm credit to farmers are as under—

1. Under Service Area Approach (SAA) introduced by Reserve Bank of India from 1989, all villages in the country are now allocated to the branches of commercial banks and 126 Regional Rural Banks. In addition to these, the remaining 70 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks are allowed to extend finance in their area of operation. All the service area branches of commercial banks and RRBs are now preparing village wise annual credit plans which take into account the requirements of credit for all types of borrowers in the villages including small, medium and large farmers.
2. The Credit requirement of the borrowers for crop loans are based on the scale of finance (for each crop) which is reviewed and fixed every year by a District Level Technical Committee taking into account cost of inputs, labour costs etc. The investment loans (termloans) on the other hand are extended as per the unit cost fixed on the basis of the outlay for a minimum viable unit and reviewed every six months under the aegis of a Standing Committee for the Revision of Unit Costs set up by the NABARD.
3. No margin is insisted upon for agricultural loans upto Rs. 10,000/-. Also for loans above Rs. 10,000/-, margin requirement is 5, 10 & 15 per cent for small, medi um and big farmers respectively.
4. No collateral security is required to be provided by the farmer borrower for the loans sanctioned upto Rs. 15,000. In the States where legislation on the basis of Talwar Committee recommenda tions has been enacted a simple declaration by a farmer can create a charge in favour of the financing bank thus obviating the complicated process of mortgage.
5. Conversion/reschedulement of loans for agriculture and allied activities are allowed to borrowers on account of the failure of crops/damage to the units due to drought, flood and other natural calamities in order to ensure smooth flow of credit to the beneficiaries.
6. Generous refinance facilities are available to the RRBs for supporting

their agricultrural credit for production and investment purposes. Depending on the type of loan such refinance is granted in the form of Short-term and Mediumterm (Non-Schematic) credit limits as well as Medium Term & Long Term schematic refinance.

The following instructions have also been given to banks for ensuring timely flow of credit to farmers:

(i) All loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000 are to be disposed of within a fortnight and those for over Rs. 25,000 within 8 to 9 weeks.

(ii) All branch managers of banks are vested with discretionary powers to sanction proposals from weaker sections without reference to higher authority.

(iii) Banks are required to have a machinery at the regional office level : (a) to entertain complaints from the borrowers if the branches do not follow the guidelines and (b) to verify periodically that these guidelines are implemented by the branches in actual practice.

(c) and (d) A Budget provision of Rs. 341 crores has been made under the scheme Debt Relief to Farmers during the year 1994-95. An amount of Rs. 275 crores has alrady been released in July, 1994 to the Reserve Banks of India towards payment to public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks in respect of loan written off under the ARDR Scheme, 1990 and the balance of Rs. 66 crores is likely to be released soon.

Films on Agricultural Subjects

4249. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited some private film producing companies to make films on agricultural subjects which were hitherto being produced by Films Division;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total number of films produced by private film-makers and expenditure incurred thereon during 1991-92 and 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir, offers from private film producers were invited for preparation of panels for making films on agricultural subjects. These offers were invited in 1990 and 1991.

(b)Government has decided to patronize private film producers for production of films on agricultural subjects so as to take advantage of best expertize available in the market and its cost effectiveness.

(c)Indian Council of Agricultural Research have got produced 4 video films during 1991-92 and expenditure of Rs. 16.15 lakh was incurred thereon.

Evaluation of Working of the Indian Dairy Corporation

4250. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government have made any evaluation of the working of Indian Dairy Corporation;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c)the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the upgradation of the said Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The Indian Dairy Corporation (IDC) has been dissolved by an Act of Parliament i.e., the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987 (37 of 1987) and as such the question of evaluation/upgradation of the working of the Indian Dairy Corporation does not arise.

Rice Development Programme

4251. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV: